(c) No such inforamtion has come to the notice of the Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department of Delhi Administration, so far.

(d) Delhi Administration will take appropriate action against guilty officials after receipt of Vigilance enquiry report.

Powers to Bureau of Indian Standards

3119. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of steps taken for giving more powers to Bureau of Indian Standards for granting ISO-9000 Certification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Bureau of Indian Standards (Certification) Regulations, 1988 under the BIS Act, 1986 has been amended so as to enable BIS to undertake the Certification of Quality Systems against IS 14000 series which is identical to ISO 9000 series.

Opening of retail outlets in rural and urban areas of Orissa

3120. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for opening retail outlets in the rural and urban areas of Orissa for 1991-92 under the Public Distribution System;

(b) what progress has been made so far to achieve the target; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen PDS in the remote tribal and accessible areas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Under the 20-Point Programme, the Government of Orissa has set a target of opening of 50 Fair Price Shops during 1991-92, against which 29 Fair Price Shops are reported to have been opened by the State Government upto June, 1991.

(c) The Central Government has, in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations, identified about 1700 blocks in various developmental programme areas covered under the DDP, DPAP, DHA and ITDP for intensive coverage and improved reach of the PDS to the population living in those areas. The State Government of Orissa proposes to open about 1300 Fair Price Shops in the identified areas of the State. Against this the Government of Orissa has reported that so far 560 Fair Price Shops have been opened upto 31-10-1991. This is an integral part of the proposals for streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System.

Release of quota for 1991-92

3121. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the Central Government has released the quota fixed for the States for 1991-92 through Public Distribution System; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Allocations of essential commodities to State Governments/U.T. Administrations for supply under the Public Distribution System (PDS) are made on a month to month basis, taking into account factors like demand from States/UTs availability of stocks in Central Pool, *inter-se* requirements of State/U.Ts. etc. Allocations of these items for the months of April, 91 to December, '91 of the financial year 1991-92 have already been made by the Central Government.

Adulterated groundnut oil

3122. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the filtered groundnut oil in loose form

at retail outlets of Bangalore and Rajkot market are adulterated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the groundnut oil is adulterated with caster-oil and cotton-seed oil which is injurious to health; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As per News item published in the 'Times of India' dated 20th September, 1991 sample surveys conducted at the instance of NDDB indicated that filtered groundnut oil in loose form at retail outlets of Bangalore and Rajkot markets is normally adulterated. Adulterants were castor/cottonseed oil.

Cottonseed oil is an edible oil. Castor oil is an irritant to the gastro-intestinal mucos and its mixing with edible oil is prohibited under the provision of PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) State Governments have been issued instructions to take action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act so as to prevent adulteration of edible oils including groundnut oil.

Import of edible oil from USA

3123. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of importing edible oil from the U.S.A. to meet the present shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to avail of PL-480 for the purpose of stage 3 schemes for public distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Recently, there was an offer of commodity assistance on grant basis from the USAID under the Title III new PL-480 programme offering assistance of 25,000 to 50,000 MTs of vegetable oil for 4 years. The Government has decided that the handling and distribution of this edible oil will be entrusted to the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) and who may auction it at the ports. A proposal has gone to AID, Washington recommending assistance of 25,000 MTs of edible oils under this scheme.

Distribution of Palmolein and Dhara oil

3124. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail sale of Palmolein and Dhara edible oil is being done by three main branches of Super Bazar at Connaught Circus, Patel Nagar and I.N.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether retail sale of these items is not being done in other branches of Super Bazar opened in different localities of Delhi; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether these items of edible oils have been categorised as items of Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During past 4 months, Dhara & Palmolein were sold on monthly average quantity of 96.1 MT & 10,500 litres respectively.

(c) No, Sir. However, the availability of these oils is not adequate for sale through all mini branches regularly. Depending upon their availability in sufficient quantity from M/s. Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation and M/s. Gujarat Coop. Milk Marketing Federation, Super Bazar sells these edible oils regularly to its consumers through its branches situated in different localities of Delhi.